

EDMONTON metro



Hospitals in disrepair, not keeping up: AHS

Region needs a new facility before 2030 to deal with growth, a sweeping new report says **PAGE 3**

Study shows big spike in aboriginal women in prison

Number behind bars grew a staggering 97 per cent between 2002 and 2012 **PAGE 10**

It's an office holiday party, not a singles soirée

Don't let liquid courage, flirtatious overtures leave you with more than a hangover headache **PAGE 16**

22 YEARS OF 22 MINUTES

METRO CATCHES UP WITH THE CBC COMEDY SERIES' ONLY ORIGINAL CAST MEMBER AHEAD OF THE SHOW'S ONE-HOUR BIRTHDAY SPECIAL (IS IT REALLY AN HOUR, THOUGH?) **PAGE 17**



DRUGS, WEAPONS SEIZED IN 'DIAL-A-DOPE' BUST

STAT Const. Jessie Poonia holds up a bag of buff — a diluent used to cut cocaine. On Nov. 20 special traffic police seized more than 1.5 kilos of the substance, along with other drugs and weapons, after three search warrants were executed in south Edmonton. Read more on page 4. LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

Tories allow free vote on Bill 10

Gay-straight alliances. MLA Lukaszuk takes issue with 'incremental granting of human rights': 'We didn't give women half a vote'



LEAH HOLOIDAY
leah.holoiday@metronews.ca

Alberta's ruling Tories announced Tuesday they wouldn't force MLAs to vote along party lines on a controversial youth gay rights bill — and the party's former deputy premier and education minister said he couldn't stand behind the "incremental" measure.

Former education minister Thomas Lukaszuk had called on Premier Jim Prentice to allow a free vote, stating Bill 10 passes the buck to school boards to make a "defining" decision on an important human rights matter. Lukaszuk was the lone Tory vote against as the bill passed second reading Tuesday afternoon, 42-10.

The bill pre-empted one from Liberal Laurie Blakeman that would have required school boards to support students hoping to launch a GSA in their school. Instead, Prentice said students would have the ability to appeal a school decision against such a group all the way to the Court of

Queen's Bench.

But Lukaszuk said he struggles to believe students would have the ability — or financial means — to take such action and feels the process would drag out for years, likely until after the student had graduated.

"I simply do not believe in incremental granting of human rights," said Lukaszuk, who has kids enrolled in Catholic schools in Edmonton and St. Albert.

"This bill is supposed to be a balance, some people refer to it as a field goal but not a touchdown.... Fifty years ago, we didn't tell (Rosa Parks), 'Well, OK, you no longer have to ride in the back of the bus, you can now move up to the middle of the bus.'"

"We didn't give women

velop an anti-bullying policy that identifies all forms of bullying, even ones that are directed to students who "identify as gay or have issues with gender identity."

"We don't go out of our way to define the differences in (students)," said Sykora. "We believe everyone is valuable."

While students are welcome to start clubs supporting one another, Sykora said calling them a gay-straight alliance isn't a necessary label.

"The policy we have in place speaks of caring for all students in an inclusive manner. GSA might not be an adequate descriptor for it," he said, offering titles like "diversity clubs" and "difference clubs" to describe student groups.

What's in a name?

"The policy we have in place speaks of caring for all students in an inclusive manner. GSA might not be an adequate descriptor for it."

Tony Sykora of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association. Sykora says calling student support clubs gay-straight alliances isn't a necessary label.

half a vote, we gave them a full vote during the suffrage debate."

Tony Sykora of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association said separate school boards throughout the province, who have been harshly criticized in the GSA debate, have worked hard to de-

Sykora said, by offering the clubs a different name, they could welcome more students.

"We would welcome all students into them, not any one of any particular trait," he said.

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7-6 vote. Police won't get chopper they wanted

Edmonton police will be getting a new helicopter, but it's not the one they sought from city council.

In a 7-6 vote, council approved the purchase of a single-engine helicopter at a cost of about \$3.5 million. The slim minority on council said it was prepared to allow the force to get by with its current fleet.

The police currently have two choppers based at the Villeneuve airport.

One is expected to remain in flight for another two years, with the other expected to stay in service for at least four.

The police force had pitched getting a larger, twin-engine helicopter, which would have given its officers more capabilities, including vertical take-off.

Coun. Mike Nickel said there was still enough life in the service's existing fleet.

"They're going to have to make do with what they have," he said.

Coun. Scott McKeen preferred community policing methods focusing on boots on the ground, but he knows there's a real benefit to the police use of a helicopter to shut down high-speed pursuits.

"They reduce peril both for the police and for the community as well," he said.

Coun. Michael Oshry said the single-engine helicopter wouldn't address any concerns police had about the current fleet's abilities.

"I look at what we're going to get here and I just don't see the value," Oshry said.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Hospitals need major upgrades, report finds

Edmonton 2030. Failing conditions found at four city facilities, with big problems found at Royal Alex and Misericordia



RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

The Royal Alexandra and Misericordia hospitals will need extensive upgrades and the Edmonton area will need at least one new hospital according to a sweeping new report from AHS.

The report, titled Edmonton 2030, is a comprehensive listing of the failing conditions at four city hospitals, with problems at the Royal Alex and Misericordia topping the list.

It found sewage leaks, mould, failing elevators and an obsolete system for medical gas at the Misericordia, while at the Royal Alex the entire inpatient tower, with more than 500 beds, has been deemed obsolete.

AHS medical director Dr. David Mador said upgrades to the hospitals would add more beds — crucial when the city is seeing substantial growth.

"Our immediate need is to address major infrastructure needs at the Misericordia and the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Any solution to that would include increased capacity," he said.

In addition to much-needed major repairs, both hospitals are failing to keep up with patient demand. Deb Gordon, chief health operations officer, said the upgrades will address



Dr. David Mador and Deb Gordon of AHS speak to media Tuesday about a sweeping report on the state of Edmonton's health facilities. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Quoted

"That will place significant strain on our health care system and that means we need to start planning now."

Deb Gordon, AHS chief health operations officer, on the challenges of expected population growth

only some of that, and a new hospital will be needed.

"We believe in the long run, Edmonton will need additional acute care capacity," she said.

Mador said the benefit of this plan is it gives the full picture of what is needed to keep the system functioning well.

"Traditionally, we have always focused on what we need today and by the time we are done addressing that we're behind the eight ball," he said.

AHS could not provide a dollar figure for the lengthy list of upgrades at both facilities,

but is working on a more detailed plans that should be available next summer.

NDP leader Rachel Notley said the report demonstrates a complete failure on the part of the PC government.

"This is not a problem that was created overnight, this is a problem that has resulted from one or two decades of neglect," she said.

The report also highlights Edmonton General, which has elevator and vermin problems, and Alberta Hospital as areas in need of an upgrade.

Gordon said it's not an issue of money, but said the report should outline the issues on the horizon.

"The government has given us money for these maintenance programs time and time again," she said. "We do preventive maintenance all the time as well, but we also have sometimes big projects that need to go on in an aging building."

Despite the major overhauls that are required, she was confident both buildings would be able to continue to operate while the work was done.

"We're very used to doing major and complex construction projects inside our hospital facilities, while we continue to operate those facilities," she said.

1 NEWS



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Edmonton snow plan misses several city neighbourhoods

First day. Rollout of new blading plan fumbled, but councillor hopeful kinks have been worked out



RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Edmonton's vaunted new plan for neighbourhood snow removal ran into problems on the first day, after several neighbourhoods were missed.

The new proposal calls for a consistent approach across the winter with neighbourhoods divided up by the day of the week with crews returning for blading on the same day all winter long.

Coun. Bryan Anderson said that didn't go exactly as planned.

"There were some glitches. There were some size issues. Some of the Monday area was

not complete," he said.

Transportation spokesperson Laura McNabb confirmed that Magrath, MacTaggart, Terwillegar Towne and South Terwillegar were all missed on Monday and will now be cleared on Dec. 6.

McNabb said the department is disappointed that there were some scheduling issues.

"It was just confusion; a mistake was made," she said. "We greatly regret the inconvenience that this error will cause the residents who were expecting their roads to be completed on Monday."

McNabb said a new plan to change future cycles gives confidence that crews will be able to complete the remaining neighbourhoods this week.

"We have taken steps to ensure that the mistake is not repeated again in future blading cycles," she said.

Anderson said the missed target is disappointing. He hopes everything will be sorted out the next time the city undertakes a neighbourhood

Snow business

Residents are not required to remove their vehicles during neighbourhood blading cycles, but are encouraged to do it, so crews can work faster.

- The snow clearing budget for 2014 is already \$10 million over.

blading cycle.

"I'm hopeful that by week two things will be adjusted and (citizens) can trust the city website," he said.

He said he's also hopeful residents will get their vehicles out of the way for the blading cycle, so crews can move faster. But based on the seasonal parking ban, he's not optimistic.

"The number of tickets and warnings and tows that were handed out during that seasonal snow ban is still way, way higher than we would expect," Anderson said.



Snow crews failed to complete some of the neighbourhoods scheduled for clearing on Monday. The job will be moved to the weekend. METRO FILE

Public tip leads to bust of 'dial-a-dope' scheme



Seized drugs and weapons at a press conference Tuesday. LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

Thanks to a tip from the public, Edmonton police seized a series of guns, drugs and weapons from what they're calling a "dial-a-dope" operation.

The Edmonton Police Service's Specialized Traffic Apprehension Team (STAT) received a tip at the beginning of the year about an alleged "dial-a-dope" operation.

STAT Const. Jessie Poonian said police discovered that the scheme wasn't a single-person operation, but was a group effort and different suspects were assigned to different roles.

"These individuals worked together for their own benefit to distribute drugs on the street," said Poonian.

On Nov. 20, with help from the EPS Drug and Gang Unit, officers executed search warrants at three different south Edmonton homes and one car. Four people were arrested.

In total, police seized two handguns — a .38 Special revolver and a .25 semi-automatic pistol — and ammunition, \$12,000 in cash, 370

grams of cocaine, 90 grams of marijuana and 16 grams of hashish, along with 1.5 kilograms of "buff," a filler used to dilute cocaine.

John Edward Saul, 27, Raymanpreet Singh Uppal, 28, Jared Joseph Perner, 25 and Arman Deep Singh Hanjrah, 21, face a total of 30 charges, including several counts of

possession for the purpose of trafficking and possession of stolen property.

So far this year, STAT has seized seven firearms, 120 illegal weapons, including machetes and brass knuckles, as well as four kilograms of marijuana and a number of other drugs.

LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

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Reintroduced. Province tables new rules for condos

The province introduced new rules for condo developers and associations Tuesday, designed to make the system fairer and more transparent for buyers.

The new condo act was first introduced in the spring and has been reintroduced in this session.

Service Alberta Minister Stephen Khan said it aims to create a better system for what is an increasingly popular choice.

"This will create a healthy and stable eco-system for condo associations and condo developers," he said.

Among the changes are a requirement that developers hold deposits in trust during building, more information disclosures to buyers, tougher rules around occupancy dates and a new tribunal to help settle disputes.

Khan said there are rules

in place now, but there needs to be greater clarity to protect consumers.

"It's not a wild west, but what we're trying to do is reinforce some consistency," he said.

Anand Sharma, president of the Canadian Condominium Institute of Northern Alberta, said there is still a lot missing from the bill.

"Key policy issues that need-

ed significant changes — such as insurance, property manager accreditation and training, and document disclosure to owners — are not detailed in legislation," he said in a release.

He worries details will be resolved away from the public eye.

"These critical issues will be legislated behind closed doors and outside the legislature," said Sharma. **RYAN TUMILTY/METRO**

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City administration is looking into designs for a new transit garage in addition to Centennial Garage, above. COURTESY CITY OF EDMONTON

\$5M held for transit garage

Placeholder. Design details coming in the spring push council to allocate funds for Westwood facility

Quoted

"I always struggled to find (an) appropriate short term daycare facility and this will help with that challenge."

Coun. Amarjeet Sohi speaking of being a parent and a transit operator.



STEPHANIE DUBOIS

stephanie.dubois@metronews.ca

A nutritional food area, bank facility and a daycare facility could all fall under the Westwood Transit garage umbrella after council made a decision Tuesday to keep \$5.13 million as a placeholder.

City administration will be coming back to a council committee in April 2015 with more design details. In view of that, council voted to keep the money allocated in the budget so city administration could proceed with the designs for the transit garage.

"We've started some design but we need to know if this is in or out," said city administration.

Members of council shared their opinions on the funding of extra elements not included in the original plans.

Mayor Don Iveson voiced his strong support in having daycare facilities for city employees, saying 110 babies are born to city staff each year.

"I think these elements of design for the Westwood transit garage are very worthy," he said.

Councillor Michael Oshry questioned if whether "spending taxpayers dollars for helping city employees" was prudent.

Councillor Amarjeet Sohi used his own personal experience as an example of the difficulties as a transit operator and being a parent.

"I always struggled to find (an) appropriate short term daycare facility and this will help with that challenge."

Union representatives told a council committee before budget deliberations the value in having daycare facilities on site. They also highlighted the value in having some place where staff members can grab healthy food to accommodate the odd hours of shift work.

These items will be debated further once the report and early designs are presented to council next year.

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Transit

WEM transit centre upgrades delayed

Future upgrades to the West Edmonton Mall Transit Centre depend on the LRT set to eventually make its way to

the west end.

A \$4.4 million upgrade was expected to begin at the hub of transit activity in the west end, but a motion passed to withdraw funding.

Councillors argued about the LRT eventually making its way west, and with adminis-

tration suggesting the centre has a lifespan of four more years, they voted to wait.

Coun. Michael Oshry said the repairs are needed, using the word "shady" to describe the centre that was built in 1981 and that his son uses often. **STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO**

\$62M renovation

Milner library upgrades approved

The massive facelift of the Stanley Milner library will go ahead after councillors approved the project

Tuesday.

Coun. Mike Nickel tried to convince his colleagues to scale back the \$62-million project to just the \$13 million in essential upgrades, but he swayed only one other vote.

Nickel said he thought

it made sense to delay the project when there were so many other cost pressures facing the city.

"This I think is a little more fiscally conservative and a little bit more fiscally prudent," he said.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

St. Albert green-lights LRT route to run alongside trail

Design debate.

Stakeholders will get to weigh in



STEPHANIE DUBOIS

stephanie.dubois@metronews.ca

The route for the future LRT line going through St. Albert was approved Monday night by the council of Edmonton's northwesterly neighbour.

Four options were presented to council, with the chosen plan having the lowest cost, shortest length and the lowest impact to the community and residential neighbourhoods when it runs along St. Albert Trail, reads the report that was before council Monday.

"There are some advantages, but let's face it, it's the centre of the community. The community is built out from the trail so, if you're going to run LRT, you're going to run it in that location," said St. Albert Mayor Nolan Crouse.

In numbers

\$100M

The cost of the LRT is about \$100 million per kilometre in St. Albert.

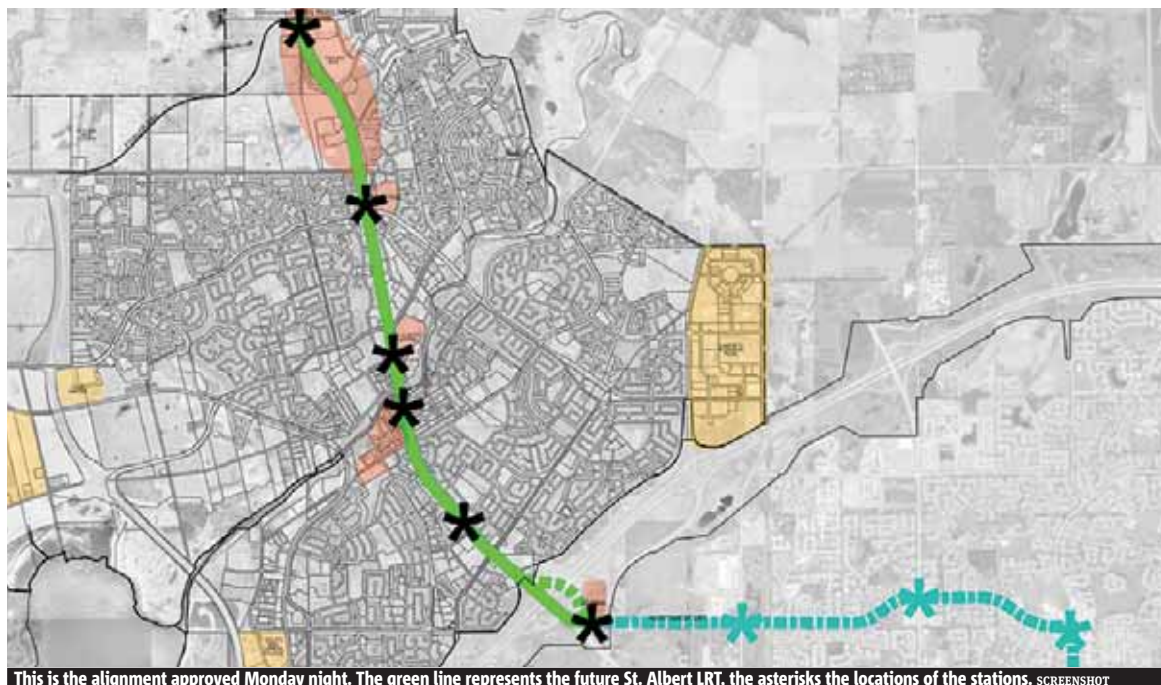
The estimated 10-kilometre route has early costs of about \$100 million a kilometre, said Crouse. The route crosses Anthony Henday Drive interchange to continue along St. Albert Trail, but the crossing of the Henday has yet to be reviewed in detail.

The mayor added the St. Albert LRT is probably a 20- to 40-year plan.

The next step is for consultants to bring more "definition and specificity" of the route to the table while consulting stakeholders on the proposed alignment, said Crouse.

The St. Albert LRT line would connect riders to Edmonton's future LRT line, which will extend to city limits.

Proposed stops along St. Albert Trail will be located



This is the alignment approved Monday night. The green line represents the future St. Albert LRT, the asterisks the locations of the stations. SCREENSHOT

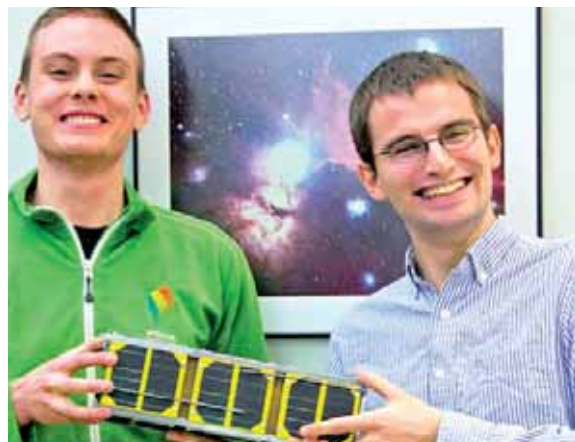
near Hebert Road, near Downtown/St. Anne Street/Sturgeon Road, St. Albert Centre, Hospital and Neil

Ross Road.

The report states this alternative, when compared to the other three routes, is

"the most central." The LRT corridor in St. Albert will begin at Edmonton's NW LRT endpoint near Camp-

bell Road, and would end at the big box shopping centre at the north end of the city, said the report.



University of Alberta science alumnus Collin Cupido, left, and engineering student Charles Nokes, project lead, hold a life-size model of the satellite **Ex-Alt 1**. CONTRIBUTED

Donations sought for satellite

Quoted

"People who are looking for the perfect gift for someone who is impossible to buy a gift for ... send someone's name to space for \$100 — I mean, what better can you do?"

Charles Nokes, AlbertaSat team lead

Fancy the idea of your name being sent into space? Well, a team of University of Alberta students wants to make that dream a reality.

As part of Giving Tuesday — the day following a whirlwind weekend of Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping — a group of students working to build the province's first-ever space satellite offered anyone interested supporting their cause a chance to have their name engraved on a microchip when the satellite is launched into the Earth's atmosphere.

The AlbertaSat team has

been working to design and build its own satellite since 2012, and received word in August they would be sending the instrument into outer space as part of a rocket organized by the European Commission.

Along with 49 other satellites, the AlbertaSat team will be shipping off its creation to study low-Earth orbits and the mechanics behind solar weather.

On Tuesday, the team will look for donations that will be

matched, by an anonymous donor, up to \$50,000.

While the total cost of building the satellite is unclear, fourth-year engineering student Charles Nokes said the team is confident they'll raise the cash.

"It's definitely going to be an achievable amount," Nokes said. "Especially with this matching campaign and the amount from the matching donor."

To date, students have raised \$36,000 to help cover the costs of the launch and secure their spot on the rocket.

LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO



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Halifax. Hospital employee facing sex assault charges

Halifax public-health authorities say the allegations of an employee sexually assaulting a sedated patient marks the first time they have dealt with something like this, referring to the incident as not "normal."

Halifax Regional Police charged 43-year-old Scott Christopher Goreham with sexual assault Tuesday in relation to an alleged incident at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital on April 15.

Police say an 18-year-old woman was being prepared to undergo surgery when a male hospital worker allegedly saw Goreham, a patient attendant who was assisting the procedure, inappropriately touch the sedated victim.

"It's not something we've seen here before," said police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages, referring to it as a "rather unusual sexual assault."

"It's very concerning given how completely defenceless



Scott Christopher Goreham leaves Halifax Provincial Court.

JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

the victim was."

Capital District Health Authority's Vice President of People Kathy MacNeil told reporters Tuesday Goreham had been working as a patient attendant since 1999 and was suspended right after the incident was reported.

They held their own investigation, and he was fired with cause on April 30.

HALEY RYAN/METRO IN HALIFAX

Haiti, Zimbabwe. 3,500 may soon face deportation

Canada will soon resume the deportations of roughly 3,500 people to Haiti and Zimbabwe, countries critics say are still struggling with the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters.

Immigration Minister Chris Alexander and Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said the temporary suspension of deportations to both countries has been lifted and migrants from Haiti and Zimbabwe can face removal after six months if they remain without legal status.

The decision leaves only three countries — Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Iraq — on Canada's removal moratorium list.

In justifying the decision, Blaney said Canada is simply

Precarious situations?

"For Canada to lift the suspension of removals when things remain precarious, it's a complete disregard of what's happening there."

Raoul Boulakia, president of Refugee Lawyers Association of Ontario

following the steps of its "allies" after a thorough review of country conditions.

Advocates for refugees were shocked by Ottawa's decision, citing reports by the federal government itself and international aid groups that found little progress in those countries. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Sex assault charges

Canadian teacher goes on trial in Indonesia

A Canadian teacher and a teaching assistant went on trial Tuesday in Indonesia accused of sexually abusing a kindergarten student at an international school.

Neil Bantleman, of Burlington, Ont., and Ferdinand Tjong maintain their innocence as do fellow teachers and the principal at the Jakarta International School. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Afghan officer

Gunman should not be put to death: Journalist

Kathy Gannon says she doesn't want the Afghan gunman who severely wounded her and murdered her photographer, Anja Niedringhaus, put to death. However, Gannon, an Associated Press journalist born in Timmins, Ont., says she wants the police officer responsible for the shooting to remain in prison. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



A new day for Toronto

Toronto's new mayor, John Tory, reacts after receiving his chains of office during an inauguration ceremony in Toronto on Tuesday.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

More aboriginal women behind bars, study finds

Overrepresentation.

Number of aboriginal women behind bars in federal institutions grew 97 per cent from 2002 to 2012, study shows

Emily, an alcohol-addicted young Inuit woman racked by painful memories of sexual abuse, was incarcerated for manslaughter in 2009 — joining what a newly released report calls one of the fastest growing segments of Canada's prison population.

The number of aboriginal women who were locked behind bars in federal institutions grew a staggering 97 per cent between 2002 and 2012, the study by the federal Justice Department concluded.

By comparison, the number of aboriginal men increased by

Findings

The study also sheds light on the crimes that landed the aboriginal women covered by the study behind bars.

- Two out of every three aboriginal women were put into federal custody for violent crimes, such as assault, robbery, sexual as-

sault, criminal harassment, and murder.

- That number drops to one in three for non-aboriginal women, leading to the conclusion that aboriginal women were more likely to have been admitted to custody for a violent offence.

a comparatively small 34 per cent during that time.

"Aboriginal women are particularly overrepresented as offenders in female institutions and correctional services," said the 2013 report, obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

"This representation has been growing in recent years and at a faster rate than aboriginal male offenders."

The focus of the study is female aboriginal offenders — a

group largely neglected by other research, the study concedes.

"The overrepresentation of aboriginal people in the Canadian criminal justice system has been acknowledged as one of the most challenging aspects facing the justice system today," it said. "However, much of the attention to this overrepresentation has been focused on aboriginal people as a whole, without giving appropriate attention to the unique situation of aboriginal women

as offenders."

The report found common threads among aboriginal women in the criminal justice system. They tended to be slightly younger than non-aboriginal women, had less education and struggled to find work. Substance abuse was also rife among female aboriginal prisoners.

The study found aboriginals represent 34 per cent of all female and 22 per cent of all male prisoners in federal institutions. The numbers were slightly higher for both aboriginal men and women in provincial and territorial facilities.

Kim Pate, executive director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, said a number of factors — including mandatory minimum sentences and more limited conditional release options — add up to a higher incarceration rate for society's most marginalized people. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Senators urge national debate on assisted suicide



MP Steven Fletcher discusses the next step in physician-assisted death legislation. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Thwarted in his efforts to force the House of Commons to debate the issue of assisted suicide, Manitoba Conservative MP Steven Fletcher has gone down the hall for some help.

Two senators, one a Conservative, the other a Liberal, are taking over Fletcher's bid to make physician-assisted death legal under Canadian law, introducing a bill on the subject

in the upper chamber.

"This is an opportunity in fact for the Senate to shine, to demonstrate why the Senate is there," said Fletcher, who became a quadriplegic after a car accident in 1996.

"They are dealing with an issue that obviously most elected representatives do not want to deal with. Moreover, I think the mere fact that it's now go-

ing to be debated in Parliament will increase public awareness."

Conservative Sen. Nancy Ruth is introducing the bill with the support of Liberal-appointed senator Larry Campbell.

Ruth said her aim to have it passed through the Senate by spring and then handed over to the House of Commons.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ISIL leader's possible wife, son detained

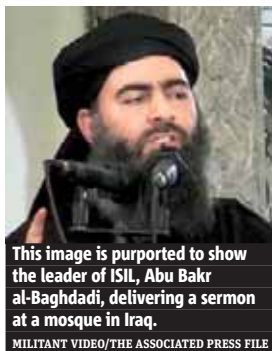
Lebanon. If identities confirmed, they may be used as bargaining chips

Lebanese authorities detained a woman and young boy believed to be the wife and son of reclusive Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and were questioning the woman and conducting DNA tests on the child, senior Lebanese officials said Tuesday.

If their identities are confirmed, Lebanon may use the pair as bargaining chips to win the release of soldiers and police taken hostage by the extremists in cross-border attacks earlier this year.

The woman, identified as an Iraqi, and child were taken into custody 10 days ago while carrying fake ID, officials said.

Very little is known about



This image is purported to show the leader of ISIL, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, delivering a sermon at a mosque in Iraq.

MILITANT VIDEO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

al-Baghdadi's personal life, including how many wives and children he has. Conservative interpretations of Islam allow men to marry up to four wives. ISIL did not immediately comment on the detentions, but the faction's supporters on Twitter and militant websites cast doubt on the reports.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



UN to suspend aid to 1.7 million Syrian refugees

Syrian refugee children sit near a tent at the entrance of their refugee camp Tuesday, as they wait to attend an activity in the eastern Lebanese Town of Al-Faour near the border with Syria. Syrian refugees in Lebanon reacted with panic Tuesday to news that the UN was suspending aid to 1.7 million refugees due to lack of funds — a decision officials said threatens to starve thousands of families and add pressure on already strained hosting countries. HUSSEIN MALLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Earth's changes

4.9 trillion tons of ice lost since '92

In the more than two decades since world leaders first got together to try to solve global warming, life on Earth has changed — not just the climate. It's gotten hotter, more polluted with

heat-trapping gases, more crowded and just downright wilder. The numbers are stark. Carbon-dioxide emissions: up 60 per cent. Global temperature: up six-tenths of a degree. Sea level: up three inches. U.S. extreme weather: up 30 per cent. Ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica: down 4.9 trillion tons of ice.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ferguson rioting

Police investigate Brown's stepfather

Police are investigating Michael Brown's stepfather for angry comments made to a Ferguson crowd after a grand jury decided not to indict the police officer who fatally shot his stepson. St.

Louis County Police spokesman Brian Schellman said Tuesday that police want to talk to Louis Head about his comments as part of a broader investigation into arson, vandalism and looting that followed the Nov. 24 grand jury announcement. Twelve commercial buildings were destroyed by fire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Israeli government crumbles as Netanyahu fires ministers

Israel's divided government fell apart Tuesday as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired two rebellious Cabinet ministers and called for a new election more than two years ahead of schedule.

Netanyahu's announcement plunges the country into a bitter campaign that seemed unlikely just a few days earlier. The election, expected to be

held early next year, would come at a time of growing violence between Palestinians and Jews and deepening despair over the prospects for peace.

In a nationally televised address, Netanyahu said he had ordered the dismissals of Finance Minister Yair Lapid and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni. The pair, who head separate

centrist parties, had emerged as his leading critics.

Netanyahu accused the two of trying to stage a "putsch," saying he could "not tolerate opposition from within the government." He said he would present legislation in parliament to dissolve the government and to hold elections "as soon as possible."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France votes to ask government to recognize Palestinian state

France's lower house of Parliament voted Tuesday to urge the government to recognize a Palestinian state, in the hope that it would speed up peace efforts after decades of conflict.

The 339-151 vote is non-binding, but it's a symbolic boost for the Palestinians, amid growing support in Europe for two states. The measure asks the government "to recognize the state of Palestine in view of reaching a definitive settlement to the conflict."

France's Socialist government supports a Palestinian state, but has said it's too early

for recognition. France, a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, wants peace talks to restart first.

Israel is committed to establishing a Palestinian state under a peace agreement, but says such resolutions encourage the Palestinians to avoid negotiations.

"We believe that such a decision will only radicalize the positions of the Palestinians and will send the wrong message to the leaders and people in this region," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said. The only way

to peace, he said, is direct negotiations.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said the French initiative was a "courageous and encouraging step."

The militant Hamas group ruling Gaza opposes negotiations with "the occupation" (Israel), the organization's spokesman, Ami Abu Zuhri, said. However, he told The Associated Press that Hamas views such European gestures as demonstrations of "the world's recognition of the Palestinians' right in gaining their national rights." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of Crimean businesses seized: Ukrainian justice ministry

Hostile takeover.

About 4,000 enterprises have been expropriated since Russia annexed Crimea eight months ago

One day in October, a dozen armed men in masks drove up to the gates of Yalta Film Studios. They weren't actors, and this was not make-believe. It was a hostile takeover.

"They forced all the employees onto the ground, sealed off the premises and halted the work of the studio," said owner Sergei Arshinov.

Nestled in hills overlooking the Black Sea, the studio — into which investors have sunk \$16 million since 2004 — is just one of thousands of businesses seized from owners since Russia annexed Crimea eight months ago. Crimea's new pro-

Moscow leaders say the takeovers, which they call nationalizations, are indispensable to reverse years of wholesale plunder by Ukrainian politicians and oligarchs.

But an Associated Press investigation throughout this peninsula the size of Massachusetts found instances of less noble practices: legal owners strong-armed off their premises; buildings, farms and other prime real estate seized on dubious pretenses, or with no legal justification at all; non-payment of compensation mandated by the Russian constitution; and targeting of assets belonging to or used by the Crimean Tatar ethnic minority and pro-Kyiv branch of the Orthodox Church.

In a preliminary estimate, Ukraine's justice ministry told AP that around 4,000 enterprises, organizations and agencies have had their property expropriated.

Some holdings, from ship-



This photo taken on Monday, Oct. 27, 2014, shows a view of Zaliv, a shipbuilding factory in Kerch, Crimea. The shipbuilding factory was forcibly seized from its Ukrainian owners by a Russian company in August.

LAURA MILLS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

yards to health resorts, were publicly earmarked for repossession by Crimea's regional government, now part of the Russian Federation.

Others were simply seized by armed men, sometimes carrying official decrees that were never published or had no

documentation at all.

Crimea's Russia-installed prime minister, Sergei Aksyonov, says the nationalization law enacted Aug. 8 seeks to right wrongs committed by officials in Ukraine, where a lot of state property was sold off at bargain prices because the gov-

ernment was broke.

"Over the past 10 years, the majority of state property was illegally stolen from the government," Aksyonov told AP. "Enterprises were privatized via fraudulent schemes and the state didn't receive any money."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Property grab

In June a 34,600-acre farm was taken by armed men with signed documents from Russian installed PM Sergei Aksyonov, stating the \$1.6M farm was being nationalized. This has not been the only instance.

- **Pro-Kyiv.** Those still loyal to Ukraine have been stripped of their assets, notably Ihor Kolomoisky, who has had 65 of his properties taken.

- **'It's a robbery.'** Yalta Film Studios says they convinced the men to leave, but have been unable to register as a Russian business and will legally lose the right to stay in business after Jan. 1. The Studio has been offered \$1M in compensation.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC

Ground beef recall in Western Canada

Worries. While there are concerns over E. coli there have been no reported illnesses, said the food inspection agency

Federal health officials are recalling packages of ground beef produced by food giant Cargill due to concerns about E. coli.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said Tuesday there have been no reported illnesses related to the recalled products, but advised people to throw out or return packages to the store where they were bought.

The meat carries the Your Fresh Market brand name and was sold at Walmart stores in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The extra lean ground

2012

The largest beef recall in Canadian history involved 4,000 tonnes of beef — some 1,800 products — that were pulled from the North American market in 2012. XL Foods Inc. operated the meat-packing plant in Brooks, Alta., that was linked to the E. coli 0157 outbreak. Eighteen people fell ill.

beef sirloin, extra lean ground beef, medium ground beef and lean ground beef was sold in 475-gram, 900-gram and 1.6-kilogram packages. All carry a best-before date of either Nov. 28 or 29.

Cargill spokeswoman Connie Tamoto said E. coli 0157 was found in a random sample of ground beef that had been packaged at a Calgary case-ready facility on

Nov. 19. She did not know which slaughterhouse the beef came from.

Winnipeg-based Cargill Meat Solutions has two processing plants in Canada: One in High River, Alta., and the other in Guelph, Ont.

"Obviously food safety is critical to us," said Tamoto. "We're doing everything we can to work with the CFIA and Health Canada to make sure they have everything they need as they continue to investigate the situation."

She said the recall involves about 14,000 kilograms, or 14 tonnes, of ground beef.

The CFIA warns that food contaminated with E. coli 0157 may not look or smell spoiled but can still make you sick. Symptoms can include nausea, vomiting, mild to severe abdominal cramps and watery to bloody diarrhea.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grew 45% from 2012

Canada's clean energy sector up

Canadian investments in clean energy totalled \$6.5 billion last year, a 45 per cent increase from 2012, according to a new study released Tuesday.

More than half the Canadian investment — \$3.6 billion — went into wind power, with another \$2.5 billion invested in the solar sector, says Clean Energy Canada, an advocacy and research organization.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

75% using e-records

Doctors embrace electronic records

The majority of Canadian doctors are now using electronic medical records to run their practices, a survey has found.

The 2014 National Physician Survey shows 75 per cent of doctors across the country report using electronic records to enter or retrieve clinical patient notes on a laptop or desktop computer, triple the percentage that had gone digital in 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

As oil plunges...

Sales tax should be on table: Outgoing AIMCo chief

With oil plunging below \$70 US a barrel, the outgoing CEO of Alberta Investment Management Corp. says a sales tax should be on the table in a province that relies heavily on energy revenues to fund services.

Premier Jim Prentice has said there won't be a sales tax in Alberta.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
87.77¢ (-0.51¢)

TSX
14,620.07 (-5.25)

OIL
\$66.88 US (-\$2.12)

GOLD
\$1,199.40 US (-\$18.70)

Natural gas: \$3.87 US (-\$0.14)
Dow Jones: 17,879.55 (+102.75)

Apple Steve Jobs' emails shown in court

Legendary Apple CEO Steve Jobs had seven words for a subordinate when he learned that a rival company was about to introduce a program that would let music fans buy songs anywhere and play them on Apple's iPod devices.

"We may need to change things here," Jobs said in a terse, 2005 email that was shown to jurors in federal court Tuesday, on the opening day of trial in a billion-dollar antitrust lawsuit that accuses Apple Inc. of using unfair tactics to maintain its dominance in the digital music business.

Attorneys for an estimated eight million consumers and iPod resellers say Jobs' email spurred an internal campaign to keep Apple's popular iPods free of music that wasn't purchased from Apple's own iTunes store. By updating the iTunes and iPod software to block music from competing online stores, Apple maintained a closed system that discouraged consumers from buying competing music players, plaintiffs' attorney Bonny Sweeney argued Tuesday.

Apple lawyers deny the company competed unfairly.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Giving people a voice

British theoretical physicist Prof. Stephen Hawking speaks to members of the media on Tuesday at a news conference in London. The system that helps Stephen Hawking communicate with the outside world will be made available online from January in a move that could help millions of motor neuron disease sufferers, scientists said Tuesday. The wheelchair-bound theoretical physicist, who shot to international fame in the 1980s with his book *A Brief History of Time*, hailed the decision by U.S. tech giant Intel at a news conference in London. JUSTIN TALLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



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VOICES

DON'T MAKE IT A CAREER-LIMITING XMAS

With stories of serious workplace harassment in the news, some offices are putting a chill on holiday party flirting and other shenanigans. But while you may perceive your actions as harmless fun, HR might see it differently, writes Metro's Liz Brown



LIZ BROWN
Metro in Toronto

'Tis the season for the workplace Christmas party.

Apparently, it's also the season for friendly reminders from your boss not to be a creep at the office celebration.

Recently, Canadian employment law firm Levitt and Grosman LLP sent a note to its workers about expected party etiquette, noting: "You probably aren't in the same league as Jian Ghomeshi when it comes to bad behaviour in the workplace, but you still need to keep yourself in check at the company holiday party or you could end up fired with cause."

With liquid courage fuelled by rum and eggnog, the Christmas party may seem the perfect moment to make your move on that office cutie you've been eyeing at the photocopier.

But flirtatious overtures may not be perceived as merry and bright in the eyes of the receiver, your employer or your co-workers.

We are all confident we know where "the line" is and many of us have been tempted to do a little festive flirting with a fine work friend. But any office celebration is really just an extension of the boardroom — not a singles soirée.

So don't say or do anything under the mistletoe that you wouldn't dare do under the glare of the fluorescent office lights.

We should remember that a party faux pas can fell even those who are experts in workplace harassment issues.

Case in point: A Toronto lawyer who specializes in labour and employment law who was accused of busting a few too



What not to do at the office holiday party. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

What she said

Comedian Phyllis Diller once said: "What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day." You don't want to be repeating that line this month.

many moves with a female associate at a booze-filled work function.

In 2009, Toronto lawyer David Cowling, a former Mathews, Dinsdale & Clark partner, allegedly got a little too handsy on the dance floor.

Following the party, two associates complained to other partners about his behaviour and Cowling launched a \$2.3 million defamation lawsuit against them in 2010.

Cowling eventually dropped the lawsuit, left the firm — as did the other two lawyers — and cleared his name with a settlement and public statement.

But that one night of booze-fuelled fun left him with more than a hangover headache.

This little anecdote is one to keep in mind as your own party approaches. What you perceive as flirtatious fun can be downright creepy to your co-workers.

Comedian Phyllis Diller once said: "What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day."

You don't want to be repeating that line this month.

So ease up on the booze, keep your hands to yourself, and remember, there's a reason you became an accountant and not a backup dancer for J.Lo.

I know I'm not the only one avoiding the malls this year



IRENE KUAN
Metro Online

If you're a retailer that's yet to open a virtual store, then you better get online, because the Christmas hordes are coming — just not on foot.

One third of Canadians plan to turn to the Internet to do most of their holiday shopping this year, according to a series of polls conducted by MasterCard, Ipsos Reid and Google. And I'm one of those shoppers.

I love shopping, but this holiday season, I can confidently say I will not be visiting any shopping malls. The only way I will be buying my gifts is online.

The trend of people shopping from the comfort of their own homes rather than going into stores has contributed to a drop in Black Friday retail sales in the U.S. for two consecutive years, according to the National Retail Federation.

I don't think I'm alone when I say I've always hated braving the crowds, not to mention dealing with grumpy and exhausted sales people. Plus, some of the online incentives offered by retailers are hard to pass up, such as exclusive deals not available in-store.

I'm not being a Scrooge, in case any of you think the maddening rush at the mall is part of getting into the holiday spirit. Online shopping for me isn't just about avoiding the mall. It's about the convenience of that one-stop

shop that saves me time, and the border-free access to purchase hard-to-find gifts that I probably can't even get at any store in my city.

So far this month, I've purchased gifts from the U.S. and New Zealand, which are expected to arrive in five to 10 days, all without leaving my condo.

Retailers that have yet to jump online are facing some tough competition, not only because of their physical limitations, but because virtual stores are offering perks that are similar or better, like free worldwide shipping, free returns and free gift-wrapping, as well as samples at checkout. Most deals in stores can also be found online, and brick-and-mortar retailers know this. Toronto's Yorkdale Mall even offered the first 100 customers to arrive at their

Guilt-free shopping

If you feel guilty about all those seasonal-sales people who will be out of the job this Christmas — don't be. Amazon said it plans to hire 80,000 workers to fill its warehouse during the busy holiday season.

door on Black Friday a \$50 gift card. Meanwhile Amazon rolled out deals every 10 minutes on Cyber Monday. How can stores compete?

So if you're still a web-shy retailer, take note: If you get tech-savvy, I — along with those other one third of Canadians — could be enticed back to you.

This Hour has 22 years

TV Special. As CBC's satirical series turns 22, Cathy Jones, the show's only original member, shares the sketches she loves best

**MARK
BRESLIN**
scene@metronews.ca

This year marks the 22nd season of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, the satirical sketch show on CBC that's Canada's version of *Saturday Night Live*.

The show may not be live, but it certainly is lively, with comedians like Mary Walsh, Shaun Majumder, Rick Mercer, Gavin Crawford and Colin Mochrie skewering our sacred cows over the past two decades.

No one represents the talented cast more than Cathy Jones, who is the only original actor still with the show.

With an hour-long 22 Minute special airing next Tuesday at 8 p.m., and a *This Hour Has 22 Years — Live in Toronto* event on Thursday, we sat down with Jones to discuss her favourite moments from the show's two decades plus two years:

Greg Toomey's Playboy Grotto

"I was a dimwit bunny from Newfoundland, and he's interviewing me, and I got to wear these ridiculously huge breasts ... Those sketches were so much fun to do!"

Mrs. Enid and Mrs. Eulalia

"When Mary Walsh and I would do these two old ladies, we'd get so close to each other — we were like two magnets that would repel and attract each other. Doing those sketches got me so close to Mary and it seemed to be everybody's favourite sketch."



Cathy Jones, second from right, and the *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* cast. RILEY SMITH

Keeping up with the Jones

When congratulated on her 22 Minutes longevity, Cathy Jones is quick to remind she was also on the show's predecessor, *Codco*, for six years, meaning she's been on the air continuously for a staggering 28 years.

She says the secret to the show's success — in addition to the acting and writing — is that it is shot in Halifax, geographically removed from network politics and at a safe distance to allow it to flourish.

The Quinlan Quints

"... And, there were only four of us! No one ever said

what happened to the fifth sibling! They were raucous, over-the-top and had the feeling of something totally



unstoppable and crazy. One time Mary had to wear a dog cone around her neck. We couldn't stop laughing!"

Angry Yoga

"I've always been the one in the troupe that likes to deal with 'groovy' ideas and this was a sketch

Cathy Jones RILEY SMITH

that played right into my interests. The premise has me as a yoga teacher that keeps getting angrier and angrier, which conflicts with the 'grooviness' of the character. Lots of YouTube hits on this one."

Ida Smithe-Bishop

"I did this one with the fabulous Gavin Crawford. We played a couple of Brits with ridiculous accents and extreme dental prosthetics. Gavin was just so great to work with."

2 SCENE



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Bale sure knows how to burn big-time show-biz bridges

Christian Bale is a big fan of privacy and not a big fan of tabloids. But you know what he's also not a big fan of? Fellow celebrities complaining about privacy and the tabloids.

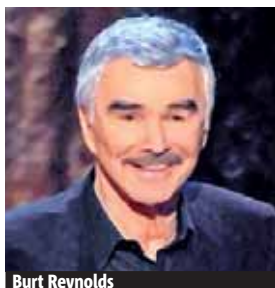
Bale tells the Wall Street Journal that George Clooney needs to pipe down when it comes to the invasive press. "It's boring, isn't it? You know what I mean?" Bale says. "It doesn't matter that he talks about it. It's like, come on, guys, just shut up.

Just get on with it and live your lives and stop whining about it. I prefer not to whine about it." Duly noted.

Oh, and don't expect him to re-team with Terminator Salvation director McG again anytime soon. "There's a lot of room for many approaches and many characters within the film industry," Bale says. "I won't be working with him again, but I wish him very well. OK?" And that is what Bale being diplomatic sounds like.



Christian Bale ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



Burt Reynolds

Make out like a Bandit with Burt Reynold's muscle car

Want to own a piece of movie history? Well good news, because Burt Reynolds is looking to get rid of some stuff. His 1978 black Trans Am from the Smokey and the Bandit films is going up for auction next month along with a bunch of beauties from the Wellborn Muscledar Museum. This item in particular, personally owned by Reynolds, features portraits of his film alter ego embroidered into the headrests, a CB radio and the personalized licence plate BANDT22. Just don't expect cops to look the other way if you're going even a little too fast.



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Don't lay any sweetheart lines on Reese — she's just not having it

Guys, seriously. Cut it out. Reese Witherspoon is totally not America's sweetheart.

"I certainly don't self-identify as anyone's sweetheart," she tells Glamour.

"I'm friendly, but I don't think I'm sweet. I'm honest."

Yeah, but come on. That's totally something America's sweetheart would say.



Reese Witherspoon

Graham's new comedy gives late-night talk show bastion a shot of estrogen

The late night talk show host circuit is still an exclusively white male club, but we can at least pretend it's more diverse, right? NBC has tapped Gilmore Girls alum Lauren Graham to star in Kate on Later, a comedy series in development focusing on the foibles of the first female late-night host. The show is being overseen by Ellen DeGeneres' A Very Good



Lauren Graham

Production company. Hey, it's something, right?

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Scarlett's secret wedding no secret anymore



NED
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Metro in Hollywood

Avengers star Scarlett Johansson managed to pull off the ultimate celebrity achievement: the secret wedding. She and Romain Dauriac reportedly tied the knot Oct. 1 in Philipsburg, Mont., less than a month

after the birth of their daughter — and no one in the press caught on, according to Page Six.

"They kept the wedding a big secret because they both wanted privacy," says a source with a firm grasp of the obvious. Johansson started introducing Dauriac as "my husband" at the Gotham Awards earlier this week, and Dauriac was spotted wearing a wedding ring in early October and Johansson had one on in public last month. So really, this one's on us for not catching it earlier.

How-to

Travel with a sense of adventure

Trafalgar.com's Liesa Bissett shares her best tips:

1. Keep a travel journal so you can share details of your trip with friends down the road. It will make a great reference.
2. Learn a few key phrases of the language of the countries you're visiting.
3. Research some of the stops on your itinerary in advance, so you know what places you might like to visit in your free time.
4. Pack a rechargeable battery charger for your phone to keep it functional for uploading pictures in real time.
5. Take a deck of cards. It's always cool to learn new card games from fellow travellers.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Deal

Cruises up to 73 per cent off

Windstar is offering up to 73 per cent off select cruises to the Caribbean, Tahiti and Asia until Dec. 12. Set sail on one of the signature white yachts of Windstar, most carrying fewer than 300 passengers. Smaller ships equal more specialized service. This is your chance to see Singapore, Panama, St. Lucia, Dubai, Vietnam and more at a fraction of the price. Fares from about \$1,450. Call 866-814-5860.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO



Trend

Hotel coffee culture

International hotel chain Le Méridien is amplifying its already burgeoning coffee-house atmosphere by hiring Dutch latte artist Esther Maasadam to be a global coffee ambassador. Starting with hotels in New Orleans, Vienna, Hong Kong and London, to name a few, Maasadam will create coffee art and help local Méridien baristas further hone their skills in the chain's busy Le Méridien Hubs.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO



A New York City hotel fit for the future King

When the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge alight on New York next week, they'll be laying their heads at The Carlyle, a favourite among heads of state, celebrities, fellow royals and musical legends. A favourite of Prince William's late mother, Princess Diana, The Carlyle, part of The Rosewood Hotels and Resort group, is known as a New York institution and boasts an illustrious guest list including every U.S. president since Harry S. Truman, every one of whom called the spot their "unofficial" New York home, according to the hotel. In addition to the British monarchy, kings and queens of Denmark, Greece, Spain and Sweden have also stayed at the property. Located in Manhattan's Upper East Side, The Carlyle is known for its Art Deco influence, while its rooms are furnished in Louis XVI style. The royal couple will be in New York Dec. 7-9 to promote various charities. AFP

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Martinique puts the magnifique in sun travel

French district. The safest Caribbean island is rich in history and natural beauty

KATHY
BUCKWORTH
life@metronews.ca

"Martinique is not for tourists; it is for travellers," says our guide as we make our way through the winding, hilly roads of this French Caribbean island.

Martinique is to France as Hawaii is to the U.S. This island "outpost" is a district of France, and its approximately 400,000 inhabitants live under French law. Proud to have been anointed the safest Caribbean island in recent years, the island has a distinctive French flair which is uniquely blended with the island culture.

Peak travel times from Canada are December to March. Flights are direct from Montreal (Air Canada), or through Miami (American Airlines). The island is also busy during July



Fort Saint Louis is a working military fort located in Fort-de-France and only opened to the public this year. ISTOCK

and August, when the French take summer holidays. French is the official language of Martinique, with Creole as the unofficial, more casual language.

Most cruise lines visit Martinique, with Disney the latest to announce their Wonder ship will begin stopping there early 2016.

Entering Martinique is a breeze compared to many Caribbean islands. Passport control is quick and easy and there is only one luggage belt. Upon leaving the airport, you can either rent a car, or take a "Collective Taxi." Many people rent as cars drive on the North American side, but due to the

extremely hilly roads, it is recommended that you hire an automatic transmission car.

There is surprisingly only one resort chain in Martinique: Club Med, which established its first club here in 1969. Throughout the island there are locally owned, smaller hotels and boutique resorts, all of

For more information...

- Visit. martinique.org

which have their own particular charm.

An additional option in Martinique is the over 500 units available for rental through Airbnb (airbnb.com). There are many vacation home options available on the island.

There are fantastic natural and historic sites for families to visit, including Emerald Estates — a natural regional park opened just five years ago. Its goal is to preserve and promote the natural and cultural history and conservation of the island.

Fort Saint Louis is a working military fort located in Fort-de-France. Opened to the public for the first time in July, guided tours take visitors through the working fort, which was built originally in the 1600s, but expanded in the 1800s.

A special feature of the fort is the hundreds of iguanas, who got their start on the island thanks to a zoo built in the fort in the 1950s. The zoo was dis-

mantled, but 30 of the iguanas escaped and have continued to multiply.

No trip to Martinique is complete without trying the local specialties.

A spice mixture called Colombo is a blend of seven different spices and has the taste of a rich, milder curry. It is used predominantly on chicken, but you can also find it on shellfish and other dishes. Bite-sized fried cod fritters are a typical appetizer before a meal, and octopus is served frequently, either grilled or deep fried. Cod originally came to Martinique from Canada in return for sugar cane as part of a trade route. Thanks to the French influence, desserts are chocolate, whipped cream pastries and other confections.

There are 11 rum distilleries on the island, and of particular note is the Clement, where guests can stroll through displays, homesteads and working machinery, as well as inhale the scent of thousands of barrels aging rum, soaking in a big part of Martinique's history. Martinique, c'est magnifique.

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Holiday fun

Festivals to get you in the holiday mood



ON THE
MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Looking for ways to get in the holiday spirit? A visit to one of these festive destinations will help you get your jingle on.

The Halifax Citadel National Historic Site is the perfect place for Haligonians to get a taste of Christmas past. Visitors can take in the Soldier's Christmas Play, shop for crafts, enjoy hot cider and take in live holiday music with the 78th Highlanders. A stroll along the city's waterfront offers stunning views of the harbour especially at night with the naval ships dressed from bow to stern in holiday lights.

The opening of Toronto's Cavalcade of Lights this past weekend means the square in front of city hall is now illuminated with thousands of twinkling bulbs. Rent some skates, do a few spins on the rink below the skyscrapers and soak up Christmas in the big city. Then head over



Toronto's Cavalcade of Lights. TORSTAR ARCHIVE

to the historic Distillery District and visit the Lowe's Toronto Christmas Market running until Dec. 21. The entire area is decked out with lighting and decor displays, roving carolers and traditional wooden booths selling locally handcrafted goods and Christmas themed foods from countries like Holland and Germany where the tradition of Christmas markets began.

Vancouver's Carol Ships Parade of Lights has been a tradition for more than 50 years. Every night during December some 80 boats strung with 100,000 lights sail around False Creek, Deep Cove and Port Moody. Dinner cruises are available on some of the ships, or you can watch from shore. Vancouver also has a Christmas market located on the outdoor plaza at the

Queen Elizabeth Theatre. It runs from now right up until Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. Enjoy festive food, entertainment and do your holiday shopping while strolling through romantic rows of decorated wooden huts.

For a traditional Dickensian Christmas, head to Morrisburg, Ont., located about an hour and a half from Kingston.

Upwards of one million white lights adorn the buildings of the historic Upper Canada Village for Alight at Night, running on select nights from Dec. 5 through to Jan. 3. Within this illuminated 19th-century town there are sleigh rides, Victorian Christmas meals, toy-train rides, and places to purchase one-of-a-kind artisanal gifts.

A launching point for adventure

Visit Montego Bay.
Jamaica's centre for music, culture and food

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
For Metro

While Montego Bay is Jamaica's resort capital, there is more to do here than lie on the beach with a rum punch working on your tan (although that's not such a bad option).

As a centre for music, culture and food — and a launching point for adrenaline-pumping adventure — there is something that will appeal to everyone from families to honeymooners.

"We are on target this year to welcome the most visitors from Canada we've ever had," said Philip Rose, regional director for Canada with the Jamaica Tourist Board.

While he attributes this to the island's diversity of offerings, he said air-



Montego Bay has a 15-mile stretch of coastline, offering lively urban beaches and secluded white-sand strands. JAMAICA TOURISM BOARD

lines and tour operators have also increased their service to Montego Bay.

To accommodate these visitors, more than 1,400 new or refurbished hotel rooms are being added this year, from five-star resorts to

boutique, eco-friendly and budget-friendly options — many built on 19th-century sugar plantations.

One would be remiss, of course, not to visit the beach — Montego Bay has stunning beaches, backed by picturesque mountains. And a walk along Hip Strip offers beach culture with a variety of restaurants, shops and nightlife. To party



Adventure sports are easily accessible from Montego Bay, such as swimming in waterfalls or spelunking in caves. JAMAICA TOURISM BOARD

with the locals until sunrise, head to Pier One, which is a "party beyond words," Rose said.

Foodies might fly here just to sample the jerk chicken, pork and seafood — a seasoning combination of pimento and scotch bonnet pepper. For hard-core jerk fans, the Jamaica Jerk Trail is a self-guided culinary tour that includes 22 stops at the island's

top jerk joints and pork pits.

"You have to go to Scotchies," Rose said. "It's a hole-in-the-wall restaurant that has fantastic jerk chicken and pork."

Or head to dinner on a deck under the stars at The Houseboat Grill, moored at the Montego Bay Marine Park Fish Sanctuary.

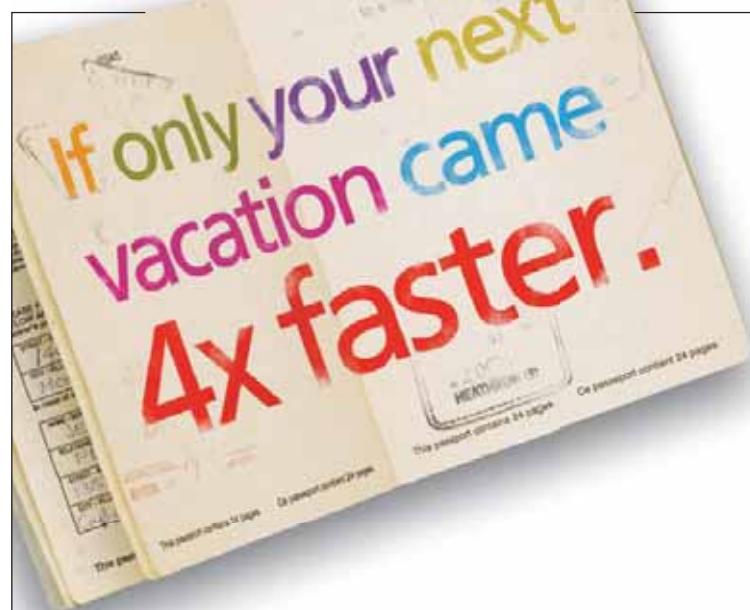
While Kingston is home to the Bob Marley Museum,

Bottoms up

- A visit to Jamaica would not be complete without sampling one of its finest exports: Rum. Visit the Appleton Estate, Jamaica's oldest sugar factory and rum distillery, where some of the best Caribbean rum is made — with its distinctive orange and cocoa notes — and meet Joy Spence, the industry's first female master blender.

visitors can hear reggae all over the island. Reggae Sumfest is the largest music festival in Jamaica, which takes place mid-July in Montego Bay.

Visitors can also tick a few items off their bucket list, such as swimming with dolphins at Dolphin Cove, where they can also take in live reggae music, glass-bottomed boat tours, and shark and stingray excursions.



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Five things to do when you're in San Juan

Puerto Rico. With a colonial flavour, warm temps and tasty food, what's not to love about this old city?

LAKSHMI
GANDHI
life@metronews.ca

With its cobblestone streets, ocean views and colourful buildings, the historic section of Puerto Rico's capital is among the most picturesque urban areas in the territorial U.S.

Explore a fortress

Built in the 1700s to protect the city from invaders, Castillo de San Cristobal — sister fort to the more famous El Morro — is the largest Spanish fort in the Americas.

The National Park Service took it over from the army in the 1960s, and visitors can now explore the watchtowers.

Looking for a good selfie



Old San Juan boasts stunning views and colonial architecture. ISTOCK

opportunity? Johnny Depp filmed a memorable scene in *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* at San Cristobal's entrance.

Stroll off the beaten path

Located along the northern city wall of Old San Juan, La Perla is a historically un-

safe area now undergoing a facelift and worth a visit — although you may feel more comfortable going with a tour guide. The neighbourhood was initially created as a community for servants and former slaves, to keep them away from the city's centre. But today, La Perla,

which has stunning ocean views, is becoming known for its music and arts scene, with concerts held regularly.

Most tourists head to La Perla's Santa Maria Magdalena de Pazzis Cemetery, the final resting place of many of the island's most historic figures.

Eat like a local

Put finding a tasty mofongo high on your must-eat list. The fried plantain dish is usually served with meat or fish. Order it at Café Puerto Rico (208 Calle O'Donnell).

Head into the Condado section of San Juan for something a little less traditional at Budatai, where you'll find a fusion of Puerto Rican and Asian flavours from Iron Chef contestant Roberto Trevino.

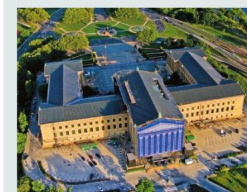
New hotel option

Bringing the whole family for a warm weather vacay? Hyatt House, Puerto Rico's first extended-stay hotel, just opened in San Juan. The hotel features roomy suites with full kitchens and living rooms.

Mind the furrier citizens

It's impossible to walk through Old San Juan without seeing the stray cats that call the neighbourhood home. Said to be the descendants of the felines that strolled Columbus' ships, the cats are synonymous with this section of the city.

Bucket list

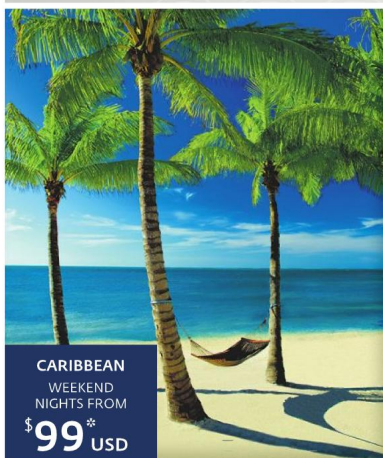


Philadelphia, birthplace of America

Fans of Philadelphia's cheese steak sandwich will be happy to hear the city is enjoying a bit of a moment. On top of 300-year-old architecture and a rich history, Philly promises all the food and fun of New York with way better prices (and there's no sales tax on clothing). It's only 25 blocks from river to river, so it's an easy place to get around. The Italian Market is a real hub, the oldest open-air market of its kind in the U.S. The Philadelphia Museum of Art (pictured) houses more than 200,000 works spanning 2,000 years. Visit VisitPhilly.com. **TEXT: DOUG WALLACE, PHOTO: B. KRIST/ VISIT PHILADELPHIA**

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Enjoy spoonfuls of Tuscan inspiration

Hearty Tuscan Soup.

You can make this simple dish on the stovetop or in your slow cooker



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

As December hits, we often get lost in the bustle of holiday prep. But don't forget to feed yourself and your family in between trips to the mall.

Prepare ahead and do some grocery shopping so you have staples on hand to create hearty delicious dinners that you'll be able to make throughout the week.

Planning can be the hardest part, so sit down on the weekend and pick a few recipes that fit your budget and taste and make a gro-

cery list.

Then shop and stock your pantry and refrigerator for the week ahead.

There will be no excuse for not having dinner when you can put it together with what's already in the house.

Post the recipe of the day on your fridge so whomever gets home first can start chopping and getting things ready.

Preparation can also be the most difficult part of eating well and this time of year you want to continue doing that.

This soup is a great fit for using pantry staples.

As a bonus you can cook it in the slow cooker!

If you're making it in the slow cooker, combine all the ingredients in the slow cooker and cook on Low for six to eight hours or on High for three to four hours.

For a frozen vegetable option you can omit the frozen spinach and add two cups (500 ml) of your favourite frozen mixed vegetables.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp (10 ml) dried oregano leaves
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried basil leaves
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) hot pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) brown rice
- 1 can (28 oz/796 ml) stewed tomatoes
- 3 cups (750 ml) sodium reduced chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) mixed beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 pkg (10 oz/300 g) frozen chopped spinach



This recipe makes eight servings. EMILY RICHARDS

COOK TIME
ABOUT 40 MINUTES

1. In a soup pot, heat oil over medium heat and cook onion, carrots, celery, garlic, oregano,

basil and hot pepper flakes for about 5 minutes or until softened. Stir in rice to coat.

2. Add the tomatoes, chicken or vegetable broth, mixed beans and spinach; bring to

boil. Cover and simmer for about 35 minutes or until rice is tender.

Curry and coconut milk comfort



This recipe serves eight. EMILY RICHARDS

Looking for something with a little twist for dinner tonight?

Why not try a little curry and coconut milk. These two ingredients can become staples in your kitchen and help to create flavourful and unique dishes that your family will love.

Check out this Curried Chicken soup that takes no time at all to make and is a surefire warmer upper for a cold winter's night.

This soup has a creamy texture from the rice and a delicate coconut and ginger flavour.

1. In a soup pot, heat oil over medium heat and cook onions, carrots and garlic for 5 minutes or until softened. Add curry and ginger and cook stirring for 1 minute or until well coated. Add rice and stir to coat.

2. Add stock, water and coconut milk and bring to a boil.

Add chickpeas and coriander, reduce heat and simmer for about 10 minutes or until rice is tender.

EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) vegetable oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) curry powder or paste
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) minced fresh ginger
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) basmati rice
- 4 cups (1 L) sodium reduced chicken stock
- 1 cup (250 ml) water
- 1 cup (250 ml) light coconut milk
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) chopped fresh coriander or mint leaves

Food around the world

Thailand (vegan rating: 8/10)



MEAT AND VEG
meatandvegontheroad.
tumblr.com
Photos: Suzi Staheli
Words: Eoin Weldon

Meat, a contented carnivorous writer, documents his and his vegan fiancée Veg's dietary journey as they travel and munch their way across four continents.



Veg: On the island of Koh Phangan we found a peaceful beach sanctuary called Thong

Nai Pan Yai and Veg discovered a nearby vegan restaurant. Veg ordered Karmady, which was a colourful mix of marinated wakame, green onions, red peppers, cucumber, sunflower sprout, sunflower seeds, mixed herbs and sesame oil sauce.



Meat: This week's column should be called Veg & Veg because curiosity got the better of me and I ordered a vegan meal along with Veg. A delicious concoction called Yama has a spicy peanut sauce base and carried marinated tofu cubes, kale, spinach, green onions, marinated wakame, soy sauce and sunflower seeds.

Take some time to assess your tardiness

Career. If you are constantly playing catch up with the professional clock, you may want to sort out your schedule

LAUREN
MARINIGH
TalentEgg.ca

Your morning alarm goes off — and before you know it, you've pressed snooze 12 times and you now have five minutes to get ready and get yourself to work.

You may have heard that there are three types of people: the ones who are always 10 minutes early, the ones who are always late, and the ones that show up just in the nick of time.

The truth is, anyone can easily be the type of person who is early or on time. It just takes a change in the factors that are always making you late to begin with.

Here are some tips that can help you be a more prompt person.



Wouldn't it be nice to stroll to work for once, rather than speed? ISTOCK

Use technology

For chronically late people, setting alarms and/or reminders for everything in

your phone and computer can make a big difference.

Even if you don't have trouble remembering en-

gagements, being forced to set an alarm creates a good opportunity for you to reflect on the amount of time you'll need to prepare and travel to your commitment.

Commit yourself to doing this for everything, and

soon it will become second nature.

Tip: This may seem a little drastic, but you can try a time-honoured solution and put your watch forward. If you're always 15 minutes

late, set them 15 minutes ahead. This way when you glance at a clock, you'll mentally think you have to be somewhere now.

Manage your commitments

Frequent lateness can also be a product of an over-stuffed schedule. Recognize that you aren't a superhero and can't do everything. When scheduling appointments, meetings and activities with friends, add extra time to each activity. Monitor how your estimates align with what actually happens.

You may find that you routinely underestimate particular activities more than others — noting these habits will help you compensate in the future.

Tip: Having trouble getting started? Begin by limiting the number of activities you take on in a given day, which may make it easier to pinpoint where you're going wrong.

Schedule for delays or plan to be early

If you live within a city, traffic can be a big problem. If you live in a less urban area, getting stranded by car trouble is always a possibility. Make sure to allocate this into your scheduling. Leave additional time in case there are delays with traffic or public transportation.

You might find that your planning and time management skills are just fine — it's just transportation messing up your schedule.

Tip: Check social media or traffic and transit websites when you first wake up in the morning. If there's a delay, you can plan accordingly — and let people know in advance.

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Change your mindset

The mindset of chronically late people is usually: "I'm always late."

- That statement can lead to a complacent attitude. Start thinking about the rewards of being early. With less energy and time spent in a hurry (or apologizing), you'll likely find yourself less stressed. In turn, you'll be more collected and able to focus better, which means your productivity will increase.
- If it helps, think of promptness as a new skill you're working to develop. This will help you reframe ordinary activities as accomplishments, making the entire process more rewarding.

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Mr. Hockey

Howe suffers third stroke in as many months

Hockey Hall of Famer Gordie Howe has suffered his third stroke since late October and was hospitalized early this week, his daughter said Tuesday.

Cathy Purnell said her father suffered a "significant stroke" on Monday. Howe was stable and "a little bit alert" Tuesday morning, and doctors at a Lubbock hospital where he was taken were scheduled to do additional tests, she said.

"He's a fighter," Purnell said. "The man is tough. He has this will to keep going, all things considered."

Howe suffered what his children called a serious stroke in late October and another in early November.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Appeal

Peterson silent at hearing: Source

Adrian Peterson did not testify at his appeal hearing Tuesday, according to a person familiar with the case.

Peterson gave a statement, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Peterson left without comment after spending more than three hours at the hearing. His attorney, Jeffrey Kessler, said only that the hearing will continue Thursday.

Peterson is seeking reinstatement after NFL commissioner Roger Goodell suspended him for the rest of the season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An epic teardown is in order, Mr. Katz



THE HOCKEY NEWS

Edward Fraser
vancouver@metronews.ca

Ten. Ten straight games without a win. For all the rock bottoms over the past seven-plus seasons, this is somehow the rockiest of them all.

The Oilers are the NHL's worst collection and, unlike the other bottom-feeding squads, Buffalo (prospects and picks galore) and Columbus (solid young core; ravaged by injuries), there's not much hope for the future. While Edmonton's roster features plenty of talent, it's clear the parts are greater than the sum.

Edmonton fans are rightly mired in the state between disillusion and fury. They're staying away from games; the pockets of empty seats Monday night made that clear.

Even alumni are speaking out.

Dave Lumley, who spent the bulk of his seven full NHL seasons with the Oil, took to Twitter: "Somebody in this organization has to put their 'Big Boy' pants on, forget about their ego and admit they were wrong about this group. #SoSad."

Unfortunately for all involved, there's no simple reset button for owner Daryl Katz. But the complicated, messy version must be pushed.

Though everyone on the Oilers staff, from Lowe to MacTavish to Eakins, are all good hockey men who have proven they can win in the right situation, the time has come for the hockey version



Arizona Coyotes' Tobias Rieder scores a goal against Edmonton Oilers goalie Viktor Fasth in Edmonton, on Monday. The 5-2 home loss was the Oilers' 10th straight game without a win. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

of the Red Wedding.

For those on the ice, the next 57 games are a tryout. If a player, no matter his draft slot or contract status, hasn't proven through effort and attitude that he deserves to take part in the long-term solution, that player should be allowed to walk or get traded, even if that means selling low.

And get Leon Draisaitl off this roster as quickly as possible. Even if he's done little to deserve a demotion, his development is much better served by dominating at the junior level, playing in high-pressure games at the World

Junior Championship and, most importantly, not being further exposed to the current Oilers environment.

This team is destined to get a future superstar in the 2015 draft, a true game-changer in either Connor McDavid or Jack Eichel, but that player can't enter this soured situation. He must come in to a clean slate: a new coach, general manager, new leaders and, most importantly, a new organizational attitude, one with a sense of optimism and purpose.

An epic teardown is in order. Everyone's looking at you, Mr. Katz.

Analytic study (25 games):

Edmonton's top five players in Corsi 5-on-5 percentage — generating shots at net versus shots at net for both teams — with league-wide rank among the 361 NHLers with 250 minutes or more. Via puckalytics.com.

- Teddy Purcell 55.3 (52nd)
- Jordan Eberle 54.6 (73rd)
- Taylor Hall 53.8 (88th)
- Ryan Nugent-Hopkins 53.0 (106th)
- Jeff Petry 52.6 (122nd)

Soccer players pressure FIFA for talks



Nadine Angerer, left, Marta and Abby Wambach are among the players challenging the use of artificial turf at next year's Women's World Cup. FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Players challenging the use of artificial turf at next year's Women's World Cup in Canada are pushing to speak to FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke at the tournament draw in Ottawa later this week.

And they want to discuss goal-line technology and prize money at the showcase soccer tournament as well as the playing surface.

The lawyer for the players says if they do not get to speak to the FIFA executive, the entire Australian team will join the rebel faction whose legal

challenge over artificial turf is currently before the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

The players have jumped on Valcke's commitment to keeping lines of communication open.

"We will again welcome open dialogue at the official draw on Dec. 6 in Ottawa," Valcke said in an Oct. 29 article on fifa.com.

"I personally, will attend (the draw) alongside our pitch expert and medical teams, and I am sure that in this way we will be able to address all con-

cerns and doubts so that all of the participating teams can focus on their preparation for the biggest event in women's football."

A FIFA spokesman subsequently reiterated that Valcke, who will also attend a news conference Friday in Ottawa ahead of Saturday's draw, is willing to talk.

Some of the players who are part of the legal challenge cannot attend the draw, their lawyer said. They have proposed a conference call Thursday or Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2014-15 Mazda CX-5

- **Type.** Four-door, front- or all-wheel-drive compact SUV
- **Engines.** 2.0-litre four-cylinder (155 hp); 2.5-litre four-cylinder (184)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic (six-speed manual available with 2.0-litre)
- **Price.** \$22,995 base, \$28,795 as-tested

Market position

The CX-5 replaced Mazda's CX-7, a slightly larger and much heavier model that offered a thirstier turbocharged engine. The more fuel-efficient CX-5 is far better positioned in a crowded segment where mileage is an important consideration for buyers.

Points

- Mazda has added SkyActiv fuel-saving technologies on its vehicles as they are updated, but the CX-5 is the first model to get all of them.
- An auto-brake system that applies the brakes if the SUV is about to hit another vehicle can be optioned on the GT.
- The GS and GT rear seat folds 40/20/40, so you can carry long items and still have room for two passengers.



Controls in the CX-5 are easy to use, except for the start button.

Interesting features

Available bi-xenon headlamps, rain-sensing wipers, navigation, Bluetooth with text message function, blind-spot monitoring system, and a crash-avoidance auto-braking system.

Add pepper for extra sizzle

Review. Peppy 2.5-litre engine makes Mazda CX-5 much more fun to drive than with base 2.0-litre powerplant

JIL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Fuel economy is an essential consideration in a vehicle, but it has to be balanced with performance. Mazda discovered that the hard way when it introduced its CX-5 with a 2.0-litre engine that sipped fuel but could be sluggish, especially in heavy traffic.

That engine is still available, but Mazda has now added a peppier 2.5-litre four-cylinder that is still efficient (I averaged 9.9 L/100 km in cold weather), but makes it far nicer to drive.

For 2015 models, the base GX still uses the 2.0-litre, in front- or all-wheel drive, starting at \$22,995. The mid-range GS uses the 2.5-litre and comes in FWD or AWD. My AWD GS tester rings in at \$30,895. You can also get the GT, which comes in AWD only, starts at \$33,495, and adds such features as leather upholstery and



PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

dual-zone climate control.

The bigger engine makes 184 horsepower, which is almost 30 more than the 2.0-litre. The CX-5 also has all of Mazda's SkyActiv technology, which includes direct gas injection, lightweight construction and optimized transmission performance for better fuel economy.

Mazda is known for its sporty handling, and the CX-5 delivers, with quick response

and pleasantly light steering. There's none of the tiring over-eagerness some sportier models can exhibit.

The interior offers comfortable seats, with three-stage heating and power driver's adjustment, and the rear chairs are roomy and fold flat for extra cargo space.

I like the heater's simple dial controls, and the stereo is easy to use. But the engine start button is wedged in be-

hind the wiper stalk where it's tough to reach, and only the driver's window button is backlit, so at night you have to fumble to find the lock buttons and mirror switch.

Of course, some drivers may prefer the smaller engine, so test-drive it in case it is the one for you. But if it leaves you wanting more, take out the GS or GT models with their larger powerplant. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Compare



1 Volkswagen Tiguan

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2 Nissan Juke

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Much-loved family hauler has few issues

Second gear.
2008 to 2012
Chevrolet Malibu

**JUSTIN
PRITCHARD**
drive@metronews.ca

An award-winning four-door, front-drive sedan, Malibu was Chevrolet's answer to family machines like the Ford Fusion, Toyota Camry, Honda Accord, Mazda6, Hyundai Sonata, Chrysler 200 and others.

Available features include heated leather seats, a household power outlet, a sunroof and remote start. Antilock brakes, tire-pressure monitoring and a full traction control system are standard — along with side and curtain airbags.

Common Issues

Confirm proper operation of all door locks, both manually and from the remote and door-mounted controls — several times, to be sure there are no issues.

Listen to the front end of the car when driving at low speeds, especially on rougher surfaces. Noisy struts, evidenced by a loud clicking or popping sound over a bump, or when the wheel is turned through its range while the vehicle is at rest, will require further attention from a mechanic.

Note that reduced engine

power (a blogging sensation) and possible illumination of the traction control light, and a "Service Traction" or "Reduce Engine Power" message displayed in the cluster could be the result of a bad throttle body, or a problem with electrical grounds and wiring.

Issues like these may store trouble codes in the Malibu's computer, which can be revealed with a scan by a mechanic.

These issues are commonly fixed with a replacement throttle-body, or by having a technician ensure all associated wiring is attached and grounded properly.

Test-drivers should be on the lookout for dampness, moisture staining, or the smell of mould in the footwell areas. A blocked sunroof drain tube or improperly-sealed body seams could be the culprit if a water leak is detected in these areas.

Some Malibu models from this generation were recalled to address a sudden loss of power-steering assist, which could lead to an accident.


Ask a GM dealer to check whether the car you're considering needs the recall work carried out. They just need the VIN number.

Finally, although reliability information on the hybrid variant is fairly sparse, shoppers are advised strongly against purchasing a unit that hasn't first been inspected by a qualified hybrid technician.



CONTRIBUTED


What owners like

 Owner reviews confirm that the model offered a curiously quiet highway ride that's also well-sprung, comfortable, and highly suitable for long-distance cruising. Easy entry and exit, a large trunk, plenty of organization via cubbies and compartments and an overall easy-to-drive feel round out the package.

What owners dislike

 Complaints include a narrow trunk opening, some questionable-looking bits of interior trim, and a steering wheel that feels too large.

Engines

 At launch, power came from a 2.4-litre inline four-cylinder engine or a 3.6-litre V6 — with power rated at 169 or 252 horses, respectively. A mild hybrid variant was also available.

The verdict

Malibu seems to be a much-loved family sedan for comfort, practicality and value. Most of the issues shoppers are likely to face should be easy to spot on a test drive, and easy for a mechanic to address.

metro

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING DIRECTORY

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Your emotions may fluctuate today but nothing bad will come of it as long as you refuse to attach too much importance to the way you feel.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

If someone has been taking advantage of your good nature, you must cut them out of your life. They will see you are serious and will come back begging for your forgiveness.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Your present location may seem exactly right for you but when Mars changes signs tomorrow new options will present themselves and you will start to think about making a move.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You may not feel at home with a certain group of people but what you learn from them will make other areas of your life so much easier to deal with. You are about to gain a new perspective on an old problem.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Focus your mind on partnerships and you will find there is plenty to be positive about. A relationship is about to enter a more passionate phase.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

The task you have to set for yourself may seem daunting but it is only your negative attitude that makes it so.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

If you hope for the best today, you will get it. What you need to realize is that you always attract into your life the kind of luck you think you deserve.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Don't deny yourself anything over the next 24 hours. If you crave something let yourself have it. There may be a touch of guilt involved but that will only add to your enjoyment.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You can find it hard to apply yourself to routine tasks and that will be even more of a problem than usual today and tomorrow. If you feel the need to get out into the world and explore then do so.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Attitude is everything today and if you approach a troublesome situation in a negative frame of mind you will probably find yourself on the losing side.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Mars, planet of energy and ambition, moves into your sign tomorrow, so start thinking about what you would like to change in your life because you will soon get the chance.

Pisces

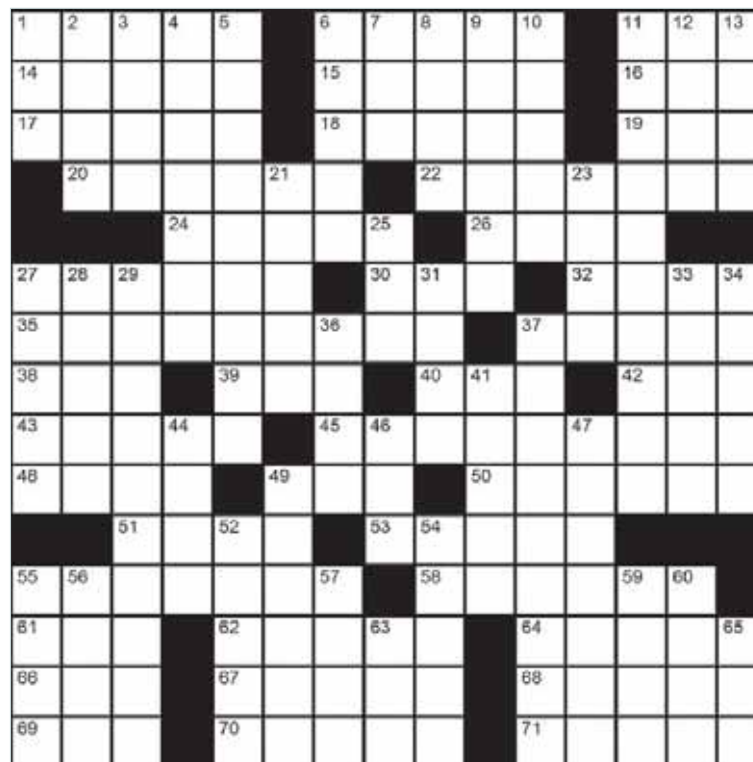
Feb. 20 - March 20

Are your expectations realistic? Think about it because over the next few days your goals are sure to be challenged.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Odyssey's prequel
6. Canadian actress Ms. Reid
11. Winnipeg Jets home, ___ Centre
14. Actress Ms. Gaynor
15. Lend ___ (Listen): 2 wds.
16. Ottawa, e.g.
17. Rockies toppers
18. Resulted in: 2 wds.
19. Quid Quo link
20. Rascal ___ (Country band)
22. #50-Across accessory: 2 wds.
24. "The Rare ___"
26. "___ vidi, vici."
27. ___ de justice (Montreal courthouse)
30. ___ v. Wade
32. Clair
35. It's wheely fun at the gym: 2 wds.
37. Ms. Blair
38. Mr. Linden
39. Mr. Bachman
40. Musical note
42. Li'l lengths
43. Citric, and others
45. Ontario: ___ Island (Attraction on Georgian Bay)
48. "What are ___ do then?"
49. Sheep's sound
50. Mr. Snowman
51. Conceal
53. Little write-up
55. Fighting punch:



2 wds.

58. Cover stories

61. Helios' 'H'

62. Symbols

64. It shines brightly in Cygnus

66. Q. "What goes before 'E' except after 'C'?" A. "___ '___"

67. Musical group of nine

68. Musical grinder

69. Way out

70. Eats at

71. Spiral-horned antelope

Down

1. Pixie

2. Poet's 'willingly'

3. Romance lang.

4. "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of ___"

(2004)

5. City zones

6. Made up

7. 'Alp' suffix

8. Brit. word/refer-

ence works

9. "O Canada! / Our home and ___ land!"

10. Have ___ in the movie

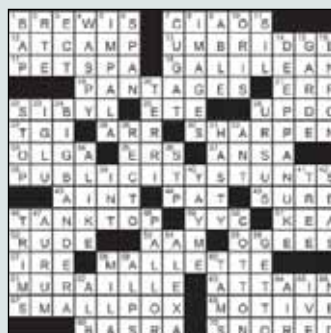
11. Winnipeg: ___ Street Station Casino

12. Scarlett's home

13. Detect

21. 'Mechanical Resonance' band
23. Bendable leg region
25. Pros on CTV's "Saving Hope"
27. "Yeah, right!"
28. Rapidly
29. Concert tour for female musicians founded by Sarah McLachlan: 2 wds.
31. Winter Olympics city in 1952
33. "Are too!" comeback: 2 wds.
34. Wicked
36. A, in communications
37. Community in western Manitoba
41. Atrocious
44. DIY = ___ Yourself
46. Sci. workplace
47. Joni Mitchell's "Raised on ___"
49. Lighthouse
52. Nightclub music gig
54. Holds up
55. Toronto hockey player
56. Poem by Matthew Arnold, Empedocles on ___
57. ___ fide
59. Ms. Swenson of "Benson"
60. Heidi Klum's ex
63. NYC part
65. Passed in 1867, it made Canada [acronym]

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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